Senate Engrossed House Bill

FILED KEN BENNETT SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona House of Representatives Fiftieth Legislature First Regular Session 2011

CHAPTER 219

HOUSE BILL 2635

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 36-501, 36-533, 36-539 AND 36-543, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO COURT-ORDERED EVALUATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 36-501, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

36-501. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Admitting officer" means a psychiatrist or other physician or psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner with experience in performing psychiatric examinations who has been designated as an admitting officer of the evaluation agency by the person in charge of the evaluation agency.
- 2. "Chief medical officer" means the chief medical officer under the supervision of the superintendent of the state hospital.
- 3. "Contraindicated" means that access is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the patient or another person.
- 4. "Court" means the superior court in the county in this state in which the patient resides or was found before screening or emergency admission under this title.
- 5. "Danger to others" means that the judgment of a person who has a mental disorder is so impaired that the person is unable to understand the person's need for treatment and as a result of the person's mental disorder the person's continued behavior can reasonably be expected, on the basis of competent medical opinion, to result in serious physical harm.
 - 6. "Danger to self":
 - (a) Means behavior that, as a result of a mental disorder:
- (i) Constitutes a danger of inflicting serious physical harm on oneself, including attempted suicide or the serious threat thereof, if the threat is such that, when considered in the light of its context and in light of the individual's previous acts, it is substantially supportive of an expectation that the threat will be carried out.
- (ii) Without hospitalization will result in serious physical harm or serious illness to the person.
- (b) Does not include behavior that establishes only the condition of gravely disabled.
 - 7. "Department" means the department of health services.
- 8. "Deputy director" means the deputy director of the division of behavioral health in the department of health services.
- 9. "Detention" means the taking into custody of a patient or proposed patient.
 - 10. "Director" means the director of the department.
- 11. "Division" means the division of behavioral health in the department.
- 12. "Evaluation" means a professional multidisciplinary analysis based on data describing the person's identity, biography and medical, psychological and social conditions carried out by a group of persons consisting of not less than the following:

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- (a) Two licensed physicians, who shall be qualified psychiatrists, if possible, or at least experienced in psychiatric matters, and who shall examine and report their findings independently. The person against whom a petition has been filed shall be notified that the person may select one of the physicians. A psychiatric resident in a training program approved by the American medical association or by the American osteopathic association may examine the person in place of one of the psychiatrists if the resident is supervised in the examination and preparation of the affidavit and testimony in court by a qualified psychiatrist appointed to assist in the resident's training, and if the supervising psychiatrist is available for discussion with the attorneys for all parties and for court appearance and testimony if requested by the court or any of the attorneys.
- (b) Two other individuals, one of whom, if available, shall be a psychologist and in any event a social worker familiar with mental health and human services that may be available placement alternatives appropriate for treatment. An evaluation may be conducted on an inpatient basis, an outpatient basis or a combination of both, and every reasonable attempt shall be made to conduct the evaluation in any language preferred by the person.
- 13. "Evaluation agency" means a health care agency that is licensed by the department and that has been approved pursuant to this title, providing those services required of such agency by this chapter.
- 14. "Examination" means an A PROFESSIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY exploration of the person's past psychiatric history and of the circumstances leading up to the person's presentation, a psychiatric exploration of the person's present mental condition and a complete physical examination THAT IS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 36-533, SUBSECTION B.
- 15. "Family member" means a spouse, parent, adult child, adult sibling or other blood relative of a person undergoing treatment or evaluation pursuant to this chapter.
- 16. "Gravely disabled" means a condition evidenced by behavior in which a person, as a result of a mental disorder, is likely to come to serious physical harm or serious illness because the person is unable to provide for the person's own basic physical needs.
- 17. "Health care decision maker" has the same meaning prescribed in section 12-2801.
- 18. "Health care entity" means a health care provider, the department, the Arizona health care cost containment system administration or a regional behavioral health authority under contract with the department.
- 19. "Health care provider" means a health care institution as defined in section 36-401 that is licensed as a behavioral health provider pursuant to department rules or a mental health provider.
- 20. "Independent evaluator" means a licensed physician, psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner or psychologist selected by the person to be evaluated or by such person's attorney.

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- 21. "Informed consent" means a voluntary decision following presentation of all facts necessary to form the basis of an intelligent consent by the patient or guardian with no minimizing of known dangers of any procedures.
- 22. "Least restrictive treatment alternative" means the treatment plan and setting that infringe in the least possible degree with the patient's right to liberty and that are consistent with providing needed treatment in a safe and humane manner.
- 23. "Licensed physician" means any medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy who is either:
 - (a) Licensed in this state.
- (b) A full-time hospital physician licensed in another state and serving on the staff of a hospital operated or licensed by the United States government.
- 24. "Medical director of an evaluation agency" means a psychiatrist, or other licensed physician experienced in psychiatric matters, who is designated in writing by the governing body of the agency as the person in charge of the medical services of the agency for the purposes of this chapter and may include the chief medical officer of the state hospital.
- 25. "Medical director of a mental health treatment agency" means a psychiatrist, or other licensed physician experienced in psychiatric matters, who is designated in writing by the governing body of the agency as the person in charge of the medical services of the agency for the purposes of this chapter and includes the chief medical officer of the state hospital.
- 26. "Mental disorder" means a substantial disorder of the person's emotional processes, thought, cognition or memory. Mental disorder is distinguished from:
- (a) Conditions that are primarily those of drug abuse, alcoholism or mental retardation, unless, in addition to one or more of these conditions, the person has a mental disorder.
- (b) The declining mental abilities that directly accompany impending death.
- (c) Character and personality disorders characterized by lifelong and deeply ingrained antisocial behavior patterns, including sexual behaviors that are abnormal and prohibited by statute unless the behavior results from a mental disorder.
- 27. "Mental health provider" means any physician or provider of mental health or behavioral health services involved in evaluating, caring for, treating or rehabilitating a patient.
- 28. "Mental health treatment agency" means the state hospital or a health care agency that is licensed by the department and that provides those services that are required of the agency by this chapter.
- 29. "Outpatient treatment" or "combined inpatient and outpatient treatment" means any treatment program not requiring continuous inpatient hospitalization.

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- 30. "Outpatient treatment plan" means a treatment plan that does not require continuous inpatient hospitalization.
- 31. "Patient" means any person undergoing examination, evaluation or behavioral or mental health treatment under this chapter.
- 32. "Peace officers" means sheriffs of counties, constables, marshals and policemen of cities and towns.
- 33. "Persistently or acutely disabled" means a severe mental disorder that meets all the following criteria:
- (a) If not treated has a substantial probability of causing the person to suffer or continue to suffer severe and abnormal mental, emotional or physical harm that significantly impairs judgment, reason, behavior or capacity to recognize reality.
- (b) Substantially impairs the person's capacity to make an informed decision regarding treatment, and this impairment causes the person to be incapable of understanding and expressing an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of accepting treatment and understanding and expressing an understanding of the alternatives to the particular treatment offered after the advantages, disadvantages and alternatives are explained to that person.
- (c) Has a reasonable prospect of being treatable by outpatient, inpatient or combined inpatient and outpatient treatment.
- 34. "Prepetition screening" means the review of each application requesting court-ordered evaluation, including an investigation of facts alleged in such application, an interview with each applicant and an interview, if possible, with the proposed patient. The purpose of the interview with the proposed patient is to assess the problem, explain the application and, when indicated, attempt to persuade the proposed patient to receive, on a voluntary basis, evaluation or other services.
- 35. "Prescribed form" means a form established by a court or the rules of the division that have been approved by the director or in accordance with the laws of this state.
- 36. "Professional" means a physician who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17, a psychologist who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 19.1 or a psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner who is certified pursuant to title 32, chapter 15.
- 37. "Proposed patient" means a person for whom an application for evaluation has been made or a petition for court-ordered evaluation has been filed.
- 38. "Psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner" means a registered nurse practitioner as defined in section 32-1601 who has completed an adult or family psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner program and who is certified as an adult or family psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner by the state board of nursing.
- 39. "Psychiatrist" means a licensed physician who has completed three years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association.

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- 40. "Psychologist" means a person who is licensed under title 32, chapter 19.1 and who is experienced in the practice of clinical psychology.
- 41. "Records" means all communications that are recorded in any form or medium and that relate to patient examination, evaluation or behavioral or mental health treatment. Records include medical records that are prepared by a health care provider or other providers. Records do not include:
- (a) Materials that are prepared in connection with utilization review, peer review or quality assurance activities, including records that a health care provider prepares pursuant to section 36-441, 36-445, 36-2402 or 36-2917.
- (b) Recorded telephone and radio calls to and from a publicly operated emergency dispatch office relating to requests for emergency services or reports of suspected criminal activity.
- 42. "Screening agency" means a health care agency that is licensed by the department and that provides those services required of such agency by this chapter.
- 43. "Social worker" means a person who has completed two years of graduate training in social work in a program approved by the council of social work education and who has experience in mental health.
 - 44. "State hospital" means the Arizona state hospital.
 - 45. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of the state hospital.
 - Sec. 2. Section 36-533, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 36-533. <u>Petition for treatment</u>
 - A. The petition for court-ordered treatment shall allege:
- 1. That the patient is in need of a period of treatment because the patient, as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to self or to others, is persistently or acutely disabled or is gravely disabled.
 - 2. The treatment alternatives which are appropriate or available.
- 3. That the patient is unwilling to accept or incapable of accepting treatment voluntarily.
- B. The petition shall be accompanied by the affidavits of the two physicians who conducted the examinations during the evaluation period PARTICIPATED IN THE EVALUATION and by the affidavit of the applicant for the evaluation, if any. The affidavits of the physicians shall describe in detail the behavior which indicates that the person, as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to self or to others, is persistently or acutely disabled or is gravely disabled and shall be based upon the physician's examination OBSERVATIONS of the patient and the physician's study of information about the patient. A summary of the facts which support the allegations of the petition shall be included. THE AFFIDAVIT SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE RESULTS OF THE COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PATIENT IF THIS IS RELEVANT TO THE EVALUATION. THE COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION MAY BE PERFORMED BY THE EVALUATING PHYSICIAN, BY OR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, CHAPTER 13 OR 17 OR BY A REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, CHAPTER

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- 15. THE EXAMINATION MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING STANDARDS OF CARE AND THE EVALUATING PHYSICIAN MUST REVIEW OR AUGMENT THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION. THE EXAMINATION MAY INCLUDE FIRSTHAND OBSERVATION OR REMOTE OBSERVATION BY INTERACTIVE AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA.
- C. The petition shall request the court to issue an order requiring the person to undergo a period of treatment.
 - D. In cases of grave disability the petition shall also include:
- 1. A statement that in the opinion of the petitioner the gravely disabled person does or does not require guardianship or conservatorship, or both, under the provisions of title 14 and the reasons on which the statement is based.
- 2. A request that the court order an independent investigation and report for the court if in the opinion of the petitioner the person does require guardianship or conservatorship, or both.
- 3. A statement that in the opinion of the petitioner the gravely disabled person does or does not require temporary guardianship or conservatorship, or both, and the reasons on which the statement is based.
- 4. A request that the court appoint a temporary guardian or conservator, or both, if in the opinion of the petitioner the person does require temporary guardianship or conservatorship, or both.
- E. A copy of the petition in cases of grave disability shall be mailed to the public fiduciary in the county of the patient's residence or in which the patient was found before evaluation and to any person nominated as guardian or conservator.
- F. A copy of all petitions shall be mailed to the superintendent of the Arizona state hospital.
 - Sec. 3. Section 36-539, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 36-539. Conduct of hearing: record: transcript
- A. The medical director of the agency shall issue instructions to the physicians or the psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner treating the proposed patient to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that at the time of the hearing the proposed patient shall not be so under the influence of or so suffer the effects of drugs, medication or other treatment as to be hampered in preparing for or participating in the hearing. The court at the time of the hearing shall be presented a record of all drugs, medication or other treatment that the person has received during the seventy-two hours immediately before the hearing.
- B. The patient and the patient's attorney shall be present at all hearings, and the patient's attorney may subpoen and cross-examine witnesses and present evidence. The patient may choose to not attend the hearing or the patient's attorney may waive the patient's presence. The evidence presented by the petitioner or the patient shall include the testimony of two or more witnesses acquainted with the patient at the time of the alleged mental disorder, which may be satisfied by a statement agreed on by the parties, and testimony of the two physicians who performed examinations

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PARTICIPATED in the evaluation of the patient, which may be satisfied by stipulating to the admission of the evaluating physicians' affidavits as required pursuant to section 36-533, subsection B. The physicians shall testify as to their personal examination OBSERVATIONS of the patient. They shall also testify as to their opinions concerning whether the patient is, as a result of mental disorder, a danger to self or to others, is persistently or acutely disabled or is gravely disabled and as to whether the patient requires treatment. Such testimony shall state specifically the nature and extent of the danger to self or to others, the persistent or acute disability or the grave disability. If the patient is gravely disabled, the physicians shall testify concerning the need for guardianship or conservatorship, or both, and whether or not the need is for immediate appointment. Other persons who have participated in the evaluation of the patient or, if further treatment was requested by a mental health treatment agency, persons of that agency who are directly involved in the care of the patient shall testify at the request of the court or of the patient's attorney. Witnesses shall testify as to placement alternatives appropriate and available for the care and treatment of the patient. The clinical record of the patient for the current admission shall be available and may be presented in full or in part as evidence at the request of the court, the county attorney or the patient's attorney.

- C. If the patient, for medical reasons, is unable to be present at the hearing and the hearing cannot be conducted where the patient is being treated or confined, the court shall require clear and convincing evidence that the patient is unable to be present at the hearing and on such a finding may proceed with the hearing in the patient's absence.
- D. The requirements of subsection B of this section are in addition to all rules of evidence and the Arizona rules of civil procedure, not inconsistent with subsection B of this section.
- E. A verbatim record of all proceedings under this section shall be made by stenographic means by a court reporter if a written request for a court reporter is made by any party to the proceedings at least twenty-four hours in advance of such proceedings. If stenographic means are not requested in the manner provided by this subsection, electronic means shall be directed by the presiding judge. The stenographic notes or electronic tape shall be retained as provided by statute.
- F. A patient who has been ordered to undergo treatment may request a certified transcript of the hearing. To obtain a copy, the patient shall pay for a transcript or shall file an affidavit that the patient is without means to pay for a transcript. If the affidavit is found true by the court, the expense of the transcript is a charge on the county in which the proceedings were held, or, if an intergovernmental agreement by the counties has required evaluation in a county other than that of the patient's residence, such expense may be charged to the county of the patient's residence or in which the patient was found before evaluation.

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Sec. 4. Section 36-543, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 36-543. Release from treatment of gravely disabled patient or persistently or acutely disabled patient: annual review

- A. A patient found to be gravely disabled or persistently or acutely disabled and ordered to undergo treatment may be released from inpatient treatment when, in the opinion of the medical director of the mental health treatment agency, the level of care offered by the agency is no longer required. The patient may agree to continue treatment voluntarily. If the patient is to be released, the medical director shall arrange for an appropriate alternative placement.
- B. If a patient to be released is under guardianship as a gravely disabled person or as a persistently or acutely disabled person, the medical director of the mental health treatment agency shall notify the guardian and any relevant regional behavioral health authority ten days before the intended release date that the ward no longer requires the level of care offered by the agency. The guardian and, if relevant, the regional behavioral health authority shall arrange alternative placement with the advice and recommendations of the medical director of the mental health treatment agency.
- C. The medical director of the mental health treatment agency is not civilly liable for any acts committed by the released patient if the medical director has in good faith complied with the requirements of this article.
- D. A patient who has been found to be gravely disabled and is undergoing court-ordered treatment shall have an annual examination and review to determine whether the continuation of court-ordered treatment is appropriate and to assess the needs of the patient for guardianship or conservatorship, or both. The medical director of the mental health treatment agency shall appoint one or more examiners qualified to carry out the examination REVIEW, at least one of whom shall be a psychiatrist licensed to practice in this state, and may at the discretion of the medical director appoint one or more additional examiners.
- E. A patient who has been found to be persistently or acutely disabled and who is undergoing court-ordered treatment shall have an annual examination and review to determine whether the continuation of court-ordered treatment is appropriate if the medical director of the mental health treatment agency determines that the patient has been substantially noncompliant with treatment during the period of the court order. The medical director of the mental health treatment agency shall appoint one or more examiners qualified to carry out the examination REVIEW, at least one of whom shall be a psychiatrist licensed to practice in this state.

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- F. Each examiner participating in the annual examination and review of a gravely disabled person or a persistently or acutely disabled person shall submit a report to the medical director of the mental health treatment agency which includes the following:
- 1. The examiner's opinions as to whether the patient continues to be gravely disabled or persistently or acutely disabled and in need of treatment.
- 2. A statement as to whether suitable alternatives to court-ordered treatment are available.
 - 3. A statement as to whether voluntary treatment would be appropriate.
- 4. A review of the patient's status as to guardianship or conservatorship, or both, the adequacy of existing protections of the patient and the continued need for guardianship or conservatorship, or both. If the examiner concludes that the patient's needs in these areas are not being adequately met, the examiner's report shall recommend that the court order an investigation into the patient's needs.
- G. The medical director of the mental health treatment agency shall forward the results of the annual examination—and review of a gravely disabled person or a persistently or acutely disabled person to the court including the medical director's recommendation based on the review which may be release of the patient without delay, release with delay or no release. If the patient does not have a guardian, the court, on receipt of the medical director's report, shall appoint an attorney to represent the patient. An attorney appointed under this subsection, within three days after appointment, to the extent possible, shall fulfill the duties imposed by section 36-537 and review the medical director's report and the patient's medical records, interview the physician who prepared the report and, if appropriate, request a hearing. At all proceedings conducted pursuant to this section, a patient has the right to have an analysis of the patient's mental condition by an independent evaluator pursuant to section 36-538. If the patient is under guardianship pursuant to section 14-5312.01, a copy of the report shall be mailed to the patient's guardian. If the medical director's recommendation is no release or release with delay, the court may accept the report and recommendation of the medical director or order a hearing. The hearing shall be held within three weeks of the request. At the hearing the court may order the patient released or may order that treatment be continued. The court may also order an investigation into the need for guardianship or conservatorship, or both.
- H. If a hearing is held pursuant to subsection G of this section the party seeking the renewal of the court order must prove all of the following by clear and convincing evidence:
 - 1. The patient is one of the following:
 - (a) A danger to self.
 - (b) A danger to others.
 - (c) Persistently or acutely disabled.

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(d) Gravely disabled.

- 2. The patient is in need of treatment.
- 3. The patient is either unwilling or unable to accept treatment voluntarily.
- I. The deputy director shall create and operate a program to assure that the examination and review of gravely disabled persons or persistently or acutely disabled persons who have been substantially noncompliant while under court order are carried out in an effective and timely manner. The deputy director, with the approval of the director, shall adopt rules needed to operate this program.

Sec. 5. <u>Emergency</u>

This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by law.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 25, 2011.

FIRED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 25, 2011.

Passed the House February 21, 20 11	Passed the Senate april 7, 20 11
by the following vote: 59	•
Nays, Not Voti	Nays, 2 Not Voting Not Voting President of the Senate,
Chery Laube Chief Clerk of the House	Secretary of the Senate
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HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

H.B. 2635

april 13,2011,	
by the following vote: 57 With Emergency Not Voting	
Speaker of the House Chief Clerk of the House	
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZO OFFICE OF GOVERNOR	ONA
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Approved this	
at 10:25 o'clock A. M. Sovernor of Arizona	
E	XECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
Th	is Bill was received by the Secretary of State
this	25th day of April , 20 11.

at 2:45 o'clock M.

Secretary of State